



OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Customs and Manners

OF THE

FRENCH NATION.





OBSERVATIONS

John ON THE *maxwell*
CUSTOMS and MANNERS

3 years OF THE *20th*

FRENCH NATION,

IN A

SERIES of LETTERS,

IN WHICH

That Nation is vindicated from the Misrepresentations of some LATE WRITERS,

By PHILIP THICKNESSE, Esq;

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D U B L I N:

Printed for W. SLEATER, D. CHAMBERLAINE,
and J. POTTS, Booksellers.

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L E T T E R I.

Calais, May, 1st 1766.

DEAR SIR,

A Greeable to your request, and my own inclination, I shall sit down occasionally, to give you the best account I can, of my journey and *voyage* to this place; and from this to others: If it does not entertain you, it may nevertheless be of some use to you, when, according to your late resolution, you take the same, or any part of the same rout.

It is to be observed, that the very appearance of a stranger upon the Dover road, creates *more* than a suspicion in the host of every Inn you stop at, that you are *bound* to France; and, consequently, a great desire in him to *share* a little of the idle money appropriated for the expedition, with his good neighbours the French; for this reason, a man must have a very deep purse or a great share of patience, to bear with temper, the many impositions he

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will

will meet with, upon the road to Dover ; which begin even at Westminster Bridge, and pursue him rapidly all the way thither : However, if you stay any time at Dover, the ingenious inhabitants of that town, will, in a great measure, induce you to forget, and to forgive, your *Canterbury friends*. For there they will extort the money out of your pocket, in a more unreasonable and rude manner, than it is usually taken by a highwayman : Indeed it is impossible to think of the many impositions practised by the English, upon the English, at Dover, and upon the Dover Road, without trembling for the fate of the Frenchmen who sometimes pass that way : so that an Englishman *bound* to France, ought to be congratulated upon a short stay at Dover, and a fair wind to Calais. The Hotel d'Angleterre, kept by Monf. Dessin, in this town, is a very elegant hotel, and you will find here, good provisions, good wine, a decent landlord, and a reasonable bill. It is called the Hotel d'Angleterre, because it was opened

ed, in some measure, by the liberality of some Englishmen of rank and fashion, in consequence of the very grievous hardships imposed upon Monf. Dessin, by the proprietor of the Silver Lion, Monf. Grandfire. The story is too long to relate; but exclusive of this Dispute, it is infinitely better than the other, and, perhaps, not inferior to any tavern or inn in England; besides, it is natural to suppose, a house that has been so benefitted by the English, will not attempt any imposition on them, as most other houses are apt to do. I forgot to make an exception to the Ship Inn upon the Quay, at Dover, having found nothing like imposition at that house, when I have formerly been there: on the contrary, I think Mrs. Jones the hostess, is admirably cut out for the great share of business, which, I am informed, she has had from strangers passing between the two kingdoms, since the late peace.

I must also inform you that unless you go to the Marquis of Granby's Head at Dartford, you will be compelled to pay a

shilling per mile for your post chaise; but if you take that Inn first, their driver will conduct you to the proper houses throughout, to avoid that first imposition.

Most of the Dover packet boats are the property of one man, or one set of men; by which means they endeavour to keep up a high price, i. e. if you take the vessel to yourself, in order to sail immediately, they demand five guineas! and the whole town will assure you, it is the fixed price, and that no one ever sails for less: However, there are one or two bye boats, which (by the bye) are much the best, that will furnish you with a clean cabin, containing four or five beds, and sail directly, (if the weather will permit) for three guineas: I paid no more for a very good vessel of this sort; had the cabin to myself, and my horses and chaise conveyed with me, and these, together with my family, I got on board the same evening I arrived at Dover; being determined rather to have slept in the vessel (had we not

not failed at midnight) than have subjected myself to the many impositions and exactions, that attend going to any of the Inns at Dover; for it is not altogether the publicans that are to be avoided. Though we had in appearance no wind, yet by ten the next morning, we were near the French coast; and by eleven a French boat boarded us, as is the custom, to take the passengers on shore: Upon this occasion, it is natural for a stranger to consult the master of the packet, who (though he knows he can sail into the harbour almost as soon, and sometimes sooner, than the French boat) is so much in the Frenchmen's interest, as to advise you by all means to embark yourself and baggage, and row and sail in a disagreeable manner (and not always safe neither) for two or three hours sometimes, before you are landed. Nothing is so great a deception to people unused to the objects from the sea, as the distance it is to high land; therefore unless a man is very sick, or ve-

ry impatient, it is best to sail into the harbour with the packet : Indeed when there is water enough so to do, it is delightful to sail between the pier heads, three quarters of a mile up to the town ; for the going into Calais harbour, is very unlike coming out of Dover pier.

I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R II.

Calais, May 4th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE French boat that conducted me and my family on shore here, instead of going to the very commodious stairs under the quay, would fain have landed us by an almost perpendicular ladder, very high, and very filthy, with the slime and dirt of the last tide, which had not long left it. This *attention*, however, they would not have shewn me, in all probability, had not my wife, and some females been of my party; for by conducting us to these stairs, they were sure of finding ten or twenty *raggamuffins* wrangling and scrambling down the ladder, to shew their *politeness*, and give their assistance to the ladies; and these gentry, after having sufficiently frightened, and rendered them frightful with dirt, are not easily satisfied for their pains; especially as their good friends the boatmen share a

moiety of their profit ; therefore as I told you in my last, have patience to sail into the harbour in the packet, and be put on shore by the packet's boat. The minute you, and your baggage are landed, a parcel of fellows (often without saying one word) run away with the latter ; but at this you need be in no pain, you will find it all safe at the Custom-House ; and when you go there to have it examined, it will be done in a very flight and civil manner : Your person is never examined in France, as it is by the *ruffians* at Dover, and many other sea ports in England, who will not even let a lady pass without a great deal of rude, and sometimes indecent behaviour.

A man who has never been out of England, cannot, perhaps, in a voyage to any part of the world, be more surpris'd at the total change of men and manners, than in three hours sail from his own country to Calais. I do maintain it, that the REAL fish women of this town caricature Hogarth's representation of them.

I should

I should have told you, that, perhaps, the reason why the boatmen make use of such artifice, and rudeness, in conducting you to the dirty ladder instead of good stairs, is, in some measure, owing to the *police* or POLICY of the magistrates of Calais: They had heard with indignation of the many impositions practised at Dover upon the French, as well as English travellers; they therefore fixed a certain price for those particular offices a stranger (upon his arrival at Calais) is most likely to employ a Frenchman to execute: The boatman, for instance, if he fetches you two leagues from shore, can demand no more than three livres for each person; but he is intitled to the same sum if he goes only twenty yards. The porters who convey your portmanteaus to the Custom-House, or Hotel, have sixpence for each, whether two hundred weight, or but twenty pound, it is all one. These, and other good regulations of that kind, render this side of the water far preferable to be weather-bound on, than at Dover.

Though the French impose upon the English traveller, I fear they learnt these practices from our side of the water, and continue it as much from the encouragement and folly of our countrymen, as from their own disposition to over-reach us, as well as one another.

The present mode of a multitude of low-bred rich people of England is to make a *trip*, as it is called, to France, a purse is made up, that is to be spent, no matter how, nor how soon: when the money is gone, the party returns, after having seen Calais, St. Omer, Dunkirk, Gravilline and Bullogne; and then they think it necessary to inform all their acquaintance where they have been, by a very unbecoming dress, and a very awkward address; not knowing that an Englishman's beef and pudding face will not agree with a hat no bigger than a trencher; and that a man who never learned to make a bow, performs it worse in a head of hair dressed *a L'aille de Pidgeon*, than in a *scratch* wig.

For

For my own part, I came here to SEE, not to MAKE the SHEW; and though I expect to lose my temper often, by the impositions of the French in my intended expedition, yet my resentment will extend also to my own countrymen, for whose vanity and folly I must pay at every town I pass, or reside in; however, from these places you shall have such remarks as I am able to make, and such hints as I am persuaded you will improve upon.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R III.

Calais, May 7th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I AM just returned from Ardres, three leagues from hence, where I have been to place my daughter in a convent, and to take a lodging for a month, in expectation of seeing a *certain* acquaintance of ours, whom, I am informed, some person took the Liberty, *in my name, to invite hither*; and though I have made some preparation for his *reception*, I much doubt of his coming; he is *gouty* you know, and crossing the seas to *do business*, that he says I refused to do *at home*, may possibly prevent him; the particulars of of which, however, I must refer to our worthy and uncorruptible friend, Capt. W——. Ardres is most delightfully situated, and though a very small town, it is, or rather was, very strongly fortified. I presume its strength was owing to its being in the hands of the French, when the
English

English possessed Calais ; one of the Bastions is called the Bastion *De Banquet*, for on it, a king of France and the king of England were entertained. At the Benedictine Convent there, I placed my daughter, which is, in all respects, better than either of the convents at Calais, were it not cheaper ; the principal nun speaks English very well, and is a sensible, well behaved woman : I conversed with several English young ladies under her protection, who all seemed happy and contented ; those parents, however, who would be terrified at the thoughts of a child's conversion to the Catholic religion, ought not to send them to any convent for education in France ; for though they do not attempt to convert the children by any direct means, there are many indirect methods, and the ceremony of high mass must naturally have much influence upon young minds ; add to this they are obliged to attend divine service constantly, and they are continually hearing the bigotted
part

part of the convent lamenting that “ *so fine a girl, or so sensible a girl*, (or the “ *like*) should not be in the only safe road “ to heaven;” while, perhaps, the Catholic girls, of the same age, throw out an insinuation to the Protestant misses, that if they were to die in the convent, they would not *be buried*, but thrown into the town ditch, and be eaten by the dogs.

My daughter, who is now fifteen years of age, with, I hope, a very tolerable capacity, and who had been six months in the Benedictine convent at Calais, asked me upon the road, whether if I settled in France, I would change my religion? I concealed my surprise at this question, and replied, I was very doubtful whether I COULD do that or not; and then, in my turn, I asked her whether she had any thoughts of changing hers? “ I like the religion very well, she replied, and so does every English lady in our convent, who who would all change if they durst.” I should not have said thus much on the subject

subject of religion, but that you seemed inclined to have sent your daughter over, and therefore I thought myself bound to say no less, and leave you to be guided by your own good judgment, assuring you, at the same time, that I am under no great concern about the fate of my own children, having experienced too much persecution in my own person, and in my own country, to be solicitous to breed up my children (in a country where they must *now*, in all probability, live and die) to be subject to persecutions on that score. Life is over-run with vexations enough, without so grievous a burthen added to it as that. Montesquieu intimates, that different climates require different religions; and I am inclined to believe that this vast kingdom could not be properly governed, were people at liberty to exercise as many religions here, as they do among us, where there are almost as many religious sects as there are handicraft trades.

It

It is usual in writing what is called *pretty* letters, to puzzle the brain, in order to conclude with *some compliment to one's correspondent; some reflection on one's own bad manner of writing; or releasing you from the pain of reading so long and tiresome an epistle.*

Now I protest against all these *pretty* methods; at least, puzzling for a method to write *prettily*. You desired to have my remarks, and therefore I will not plague you with Apologies, nor court you with compliments. I never write a letter twice over; you must take it rough as it runs, and excuse the errors of my pen. In a letter I have of Lady Mary W——— M———'s writing, her Ladyship says at the conclusion, "Now what a thing of a letter this is;" but, surely, this betrays a consciousness that every letter from her hands ought to contain instruction or entertainment: and a man often makes an apology for his bad letter, at the time
that

LETTER III. 17

that he is flattering his own vanity how well he has acquitted himself; and so without any apology for myself, or compliment to you, I assure you that

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R IV.

Ardres, May 20th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Should have thanked you for your favour sooner, but that I have been these ten days at my little lodging at Ardres, where nothing has occurred worthy of communicating, except that I have here experienced what I have often heard asserted, that a French Officer, turn'd of forty, makes one of the most agreeable companions in the world. Here I found such a man, whose good sense, good breeding, and politeness in correcting my bad pronunciation, and speaking the French distinctly, and with purity himself, will make me leave this town with regret. I have, however, made one excursion from this little town, which is situated on a hill in the middle of a plain, and at a distance resembles a rook's nest in an elm tree; my excursion was to dine at St. Omer, which is a very fine town, has
many

many stately edifices and fountains in it, and the cathedral is GREAT, in the fullest extent of the word, though, perhaps, (internal decorations excepted) not so large and venerable a pile of building as the cathedral of Canterbury.

The manners of the common run of Frenchmen, who call *themselves* gentlemen, are so far from being agreeable, that they are to an Englishman highly disgusting. A Frenchman will join strangers, men or women, or both, and offer to shew you the town; if you do not accept his *polite* offer, he is offended; if you do, you have, perhaps, a very disagreeable acquaintance in him as long as you stay in the town; he will visit you at all hours, either in bed or up; and even enter your Apartment without knocking, if you permit him to any degree of intimacy. A stranger, therefore, cannot be too cautious how he makes acquaintance in France, especially where he intends staying any time. A little coxcomb of this town hearing we were fond of music, met my servant in the street,

street, and bad him tell me he was a *fidler*, and would drink a dish of coffee with me in the afternoon; he accordingly came, and was civilly received; but his repeated visits, and his intolerable forwardness and impertinence, might have prevented my *gouty friend's journey here*, had not the commanding officer of the town heard of his insufferable rudeness, and compell'd him to ask pardon: In short, he would not be content with *fiddling* the greatest part of the day at my house, without having a fiddle (which I never would lend to my most intimate friend in England) at his own, the other part of the time.

I shall leave Ardres in a few days, and at it, the *rout I take*, in order to avoid the excessive heat of travelling late in the month of June, it is much hotter here than in England in the summer, and, from all I can learn, much colder in the winter.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c,

L E T-

L E T T E R V.

May 29th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Left little Ardres, and in it my worthy acquaintance Monsr. Pillard, last Tuesday, and have got to Cassel, twenty-four miles on my way; from which town, are to be seen above thirty fortified towns, the British Channel, and even Dover Castle; it is but twelve miles from St. Omer, but the road, not being paved, rendered it very disagreeable travelling to the foot of the mountain, on the top of which, it is situated, but the goodness of the road the easy ascent, and the great variety that nature, and art, exhibit on every side of this fertile mountain, requires the pen of a poet like Virgil to describe, or a Gainsborough to delineate; it is the highest, nay, I believe, the only mountain in Flanders, and one would think that nature intended it as a *Specula*, to survey the very extensive flat country and prospect that is every way
to

to be seen, as far as the eye can reach, and as beautiful as the imagination can conceive; nay, when I was here some time ago in the winter, it was even beautiful. Here I met with a gentleman and his niece on their way to *England*, from *Avignon*; the account he gives me of that town in particular, and of the south of France in general, tho' not a very bad one, has not encreased the desire I had of penetrating very deep, into this country, at least not till another year; the experience I have had of many hot countries (tho' I dislike cold weather) rather checks my curiosity; and could I afford it, I would rather chuse to reside somewhere near Paris till the approach of winter, and then slip away from it, by spending four or five months in the South of France. In all hot countries the nights in particular, are very disagreeable, and the days are rendered troublesome (though you sit quite still) by the flies and other insects. Indeed it is impossible to stir out of doors in any
of

of those climates till the day is almost spent, and the chief delight to be had is, to have nothing to do, and rejoice at it in the shade.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R VI.

Lisle, June 1st, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Left Cassel after spending one day there, and descended the mountain by another road equally as good, and full as *picturesque* as that which I went up, which is the high road to this town. On my way hither, I met with nothing very particular, but that at Armentiere, a large town, where I slept the first night, the dogs knew me to be either an Englishman or a stranger, for I could not stir out, but they were in full cry after me; and I found they were in the same humour the next morning, and that I was not naturalized by sleeping there, nor by paying very dear for a bad supper, a vile bed, and a great deal of civil impertinence. From this town I sent my servant forward to procure me private lodgings at Lisle, and grass for my horses; the lodgings, however, he provided for me, were at a
 very

very bad public hotel, and the grafs was to be cut, and eat by the horses in the stable, at thirty sols a day each; these two circumstances took off a great deal of that satisfaction I had promised myself in seeing a town by many called Little Paris; But, as I said in a former Letter, a stranger must have a great deal of money, or a great deal of philosophy, in travelling in this country, or the temper he will be continually kept in, by many impositions, will hardly compensate for the variety that is to be seen as he passes. I have often wondered that the many inconveniencies, and impositions practised upon our countrymen, is not as well known among us as it ought to be; but the truth is, it being the fashion to go to France, those who have been, are ashamed to acknowledge their folly, or to own that half the money would have carried them double the distance in their own country, lodged them at good and clean inns (which are seldom to be found here) and furnished them with a view of many places in England infinitely

superior to any thing that is to be seen on this side of Paris, and perhaps, there too. On my conscience I believe, a silly book, intituled, " A Six Weeks Tour to Paris, " Versailles, &c." was wrote and published by the subscription of the inn-keepers upon the Dover road; a book that has sent a great number of silly people hither, and continues so to do. I should have told you the distress I was put to on my second journey from Ardres to St. Omer; I had paid away all my cash at that town, and not in the least doubting but that I could get change for a bank note, went there without any other money, and there I was obliged to stay, till my servant went to the Hotel d'Angleterre at Calais for change. At St. Omer they know not what a bank bill is, and while my servant was gone, I was considered by my host, and many others, to be in pawn for my reckoning! I should told you also, that I made an excursion from Ardres to Dunkirk, which bone of contention, though I had seen the winter before, I was willing

ing

ing to take another look at. As a citizen of the world, it would grieve one to see so fine a harbour destroyed; as an Englishman, perhaps, it ought to raise very opposite reflections. I hate to talk about impositions, as I know it will be said, it favors too much of a narrow purse; but I cannot help cautioning you of the imposition you will certainly meet with at Monf. Walbough's, the *Concergerie*, in Dunkirk, though I had two horses, he made me pay three livres for my bed, and eight livres for a pair of soles, that were put upon the table quite cold, and served up by a filthy servant. I am thoroughly persuaded that a Frenchman would not have paid above five or six livres for what cost me there about a guinea; and I have sent his bill to England to be published in the news papers, either to deter him from such practices, or prevent the English from frequenting such a house. Indeed I am told the White Hart there, kept by an Englishman,

glishman, is a very good house; though I have no great opinion of the conscience of an English publican exercising his function at Dunkirk.

I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

P. S. A very sensible Englishman whom I met with there, and who is also a publican, assured me that B——, who made such a noise in the English newspapers relative to his imprisonment, and the cruel treatment he had received from the Governor, was himself the aggressor, and that he had met with more indulgence from the inhabitants of Dunkirk, and even from the Governor himself, than he merited: The case it seems was this, the Governor was informed that a great number of English, Irish and Scotch, had made precipitate retreats from their own country to settle in this free port, and that

that many of them were men not merely unfortunate, but men of infamous character ; for this reason he allowed them a certain time to procure certificates from the place of their former residence, setting forth who, and what they were : the limited time was three weeks, and Mr. B——— failing in point of time, had it often repeated ; but being unable to procure any, he was ordered at length to quit the town, and not complying with those orders, he was imprisoned : If this was really the case, I do not see the injustice or injury done him, for he certainly had more indulgence than any Frenchman would have been shewn under the like circumstances.

L E T T E R VII.

Lisle, June 8th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

NOtwithstanding the many mortifications I met with at my first entering this city, I have continued in it a week. It is certainly a well built town, and the grand place is a fine square: There are at this time ten thousand troops doing duty in Lisle, and the guards, both horse and foot are relieved every morning in this square, who make a fine appearance; nor can the excellence of their discipline, and the clean and soldier-like appearance of the French troops in general be too much admired; their cloathing, which is chiefly white, is perfectly clean; and yet their men have but five sols per day subsistence.

Here is also an indifferent theatre, but some good comic actors. Hackney coaches ply here as in London, at half the price, and much better voitures. It is astonishing how universal the fashion is in France

to

to dress the head; scarce a man, woman, or child, above the degree of the meanest peasants, but have their hair dressed and powdered in the highest taste of the country. I am apt to think the taking of snuff, the powdering of the hair, and the great attention shewn by all degrees of people in France, to adorn their persons, is a piece of state policy to prevent their employing their intellectual faculties; and yet, with all this, the Flanderskins are very dirty people, and seem almost strangers to sentiment or delicacy. A girl of twelve years of age will do that *business* in the public street here, that one of the same age in England would be ashamed to own she did in private! and some still older. An innocent, modest, blushing country girl is not to be seen in this part of France. Here are a great number of very opulent tradesmen, but their goods are not exposed as with us: I bought a waistcoat of a shopkeeper, who I was well assured could speak English perfectly, but who pretended not to understand a single word; by

this artifice they learn your sentiments, if you have a friend with you, relative to what you are in treaty for, and regulate their price accordingly. These Flanderskins are very artful and sharp in their dealings, and you may, without offence, offer them a third less than they demand; and, perhaps, pay dear even then.

Having mentioned the general snuff-taking here, I cannot help observing how very abominable this custom is; it is at best an indelicate one; but the middling people, who do not change their handkerchiefs so often as they should, are continually exhibiting a filthy one in your face, in order to find out a *vacant* place in it to apply to their nose, without considering how much they offend the eye of every person they come near who are unused to such sights; and considering how very little they regard cleanliness even in cooking, and how often the snuff-box and handkerchiefs are handled by cook and scullion; I doubt nothing is eaten in this country that has not a little of the tincture of tobacco

tobacco in it : But remember this is French Flanders, not France; and I hope I shall meet with better things as I approach nearer to the capital, for which town I set out to-morrow, and from whence you shall hear farther from

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R VIII.

Paris, June 20th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

AFTER passing through Douay, Cambray, and some other towns of less note, I arrived three days ago in this city. At Douay I was not admitted till I had filled up a printed paper with my name, quality, and destination; and as these orders were from the military governor, who commanded a large body of troops doing duty there, having declared myself an English officer, I thought it proper to wait upon him the next morning: He received me with great politeness, and asked me whether I had been properly accommodated at my hotel, and offered to render me any assistance or service in his power. I did not tell him the real truth, for I know not which was most disagreeable, the dirt of the house where I lodged, or the civility of the hostess. Douay is a large fine town, but much inferior

ferior to Lisle; Cambray still inferior to Douay; there I bought an ell of the finest cambrick that is made, it cost fourteen livres (about twelve and sixpence English) they assured me it might be drawn with ease through a common size wedding ring, but I did not try the experiment: However, it is not prudent to buy any quantity of cambrick here, as it is prohibited in the next province, and at Perrone the officers will examine your baggage rather closely; though, in general, the great politeness shewn to strangers who travel in France, ought to determine every gentleman not to abuse that confidence placed in him. The broad roads from Calais to this city, and all over France, are indeed wonderfully fine, paved all the way in the center, and planted on both sides with stately elms, poplars, &c. so that when you are many leagues distant from even a town, you are apt to think yourself in an avenue leading in some capital mansion house.

Neither

Neither the entrance into Paris, nor the view of it at a distance, give you any thing like the idea of what a view of London must create in the eyes of a stranger; for the entrance gate excepted, which is strikingly fine, it has much the appearance of the busy part of Southwark; the streets are narrow, exceedingly crowded with people, and the houses very high.

As there is a duty upon every thing brought into Paris, even upon a chicken or a leg of mutton, your baggage must undergo an examination before you enter the city; a circumstance very disagreeable at the end of a journey, under the excitements, perhaps, of sleep, hunger, or curiosity: However, as I abhor coming into a town at night even in my own country, I was determined to get early into Paris, and was at the gates before noon, and drove about the town a great while before I could find an hotel that could accommodate me and my horses, there not being inns at Paris, as in London, which will receive any horses but their own, and you must

must find a private hotel that has stables, which I did with great difficulty, and was well lodged at six livres a day. Single gentlemen, however, or even families, cannot do better on their arrival at Paris, than to go directly to the Hotel D'York Rue D'Mauveux Garcon Fauxbourg St. Germain, where they may be accommodated with apartments at any price, and all very good. A single gentleman and his Servant, of my acquaintance, is well lodged there for eight livres a week. The street indeed is bad, but it is in that part of the town where the English chiefly reside, and indeed the best part of Paris. It is to be remarked that Paris, however, has no *polite end of the town*, as we call it; in every street almost, are hotels of people of fashion.

Least it should escape my memory, I must now advise you to take out at Calais from your portmanteau, and heavy baggage, such linen and necessaries as you may have occasion for upon the road, and then have your portmanteau *plumbed* at the Custom-

Custom-House there; by this means, you will pass all the towns upon the road without interruption, and enter Paris, in particular, without a minute's delay. Before I had been half an hour at my lodgings, a well dressed man waited upon me, and importuned me in the strongest manner to sell him my horses; nor could I get clear of his impertinence, till I told him, that such an application to a gentleman in England, would entitle him to a horse-whip only.

A passion prevails here for English horses, nor is there a Frenchman of any condition, who rides, that has not one or two.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R IX.

Paris, June 30th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

AFTER having seen, among the great variety of what is said to be worthy of attention, those things which most excited my curiosity, I am become tired of Paris, and have sallied out of town several times in search of a house or lodging in the neighbouring towns, and yesterday fixed upon one at St. Germain; but before I say any thing of that town, I will give you some account of Paris.

It is certainly, as I told you before, much inferior to London in size and beauty, yet almost every street furnishes either a church, a convent, or something worthy of attention. The place *Victoire*, is a small *circus*, and in the center thereof is a fine statue of Lewis the 14th; indeed neither this *circus*, nor any of the squares in Paris, are equal in size or beauty to the smallest that adorn the environs of the city of London.

don. The Luxembourg and Tulleries gardens are, indeed, very fine, as gardens, but not so pleasing as St. James's and Hyde Park. Opposite the Tulleries garden, in the center of a square, that is not yet built, is a very fine Equestrian statue of the present King, who has ornamented one side of this square with a building, or rather facade, that cannot be too much admired, and, perhaps, is not inferior, either in design or execution, to any edifice, either antient or modern. Every thing in Paris has been so often, and so much better described, than it is in my power to do, that it would be absurd in me to attempt giving you an exact description of any thing; nor have I seen a quarter part of what a stranger is told they must see. The manufacture at the Gobelins is one thing, however, that gave me great delight, and what added to it was, that I found the principal conductor of it an Englishman, whose apartments, ornamented with this work, and his own ingenious pencil, contributed greatly to the

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the pleasure I received : Indeed the sister arts seem to dwell with him, and his musical family, in that royal palace ; and the execution of this inimitable art of painting in worsteds to such a degree of perfection, is well worthy of the sanction of a King of France. There is a whole length of Lewis the 14th, finely executed, in this manufacture. A small fire-screen, with a little boy feeding a hen and chickens, was sixteen guineas price ; indeed I wondered at the cheapness of it, and how a work (the progress of which is so slow) could be sold at so cheap a rate. I must now mention a beauty which Paris has, that London has not ; Paris being walled in, the ramparts more than half round the whole city, are nobly adorned with four rows of stately trees, in the center of which is a broad road for coaches, and on each side very fine shady walks. Upon these ramparts are to be seen, every fine evening, many of the people of fashion in their coaches, which are often gaudy, but oftener truly elegant, and painted in a
most

most exquisite manner; not with *arms*, *crests*, or *initial letters*, but with a variety of pastoral scenes. On the margin of these walls are a great number of coffee-houses, and places of public entertainment, where are exhibited a variety of amusements, something in the way of Bartholomew Fair, but, you may imagine, better executed, by a people whose characteristic it is, to laugh and be merry. The coffee-houses, &c. are decorated with a great deal of eye-trap, and in most of them are harlots and musicians; and there the Bourgeois, with their wives and children, enjoy a little fresh air, and the view of the adjacent country, which is to be seen in great variety from the different parts of these ramparts. The English are apt to think the French are very poor, but if fine houses, expensive furniture, superb equipages, and a great number of servants, are proofs to the contrary, it is not so. There are certainly more coaches in Paris than in London, and, I believe, more inhabitants; but certainly London is more than

than one third larger. The river Seine makes but a poor figure at Paris, when put in competition with the Thames; but when the great distance it is from the main ocean is considered, and the many leagues its fantastic course takes to disembogue itself, it must be considered as a wonderful and noble River. It is, for instance, but twelve miles from Paris to St. Germain; yet to go by water to this town, it is near thirty; and in this little distance are between twenty and thirty fertile islands. The River is continually extending her arms to embrace these jewels, that add so much to her beauty. The banks are hard and firm on each side, and are adorned with a great number of houses, and some villages. Two leagues from Paris, upon the banks of this river is St. Cloud, where the Duke of Orleans has a noble seat, and where, under his protection, the porcelain manufacture is carried on, and brought to an exquisite degree of perfection. After being shewn the various progress of this work,

I thought

I thought myself under a necessity of taking a small specimen of it, and the cheapest thing I could find, was a small salad bowl, which, however, cost me a guinea; here I was shewn three small pieces of ornamental china for a chimney piece, that came to four thousand livres. From this seat you have a fine view of Paris, the Bois de Bolloigne, and the beautiful line of beauty (according to Mr. Hogarth) that the river Seine exhibits. The Duke of Orleans's park and gardens are open to every body, and upon Sundays, in fine weather, it is incredible what numbers of people come down to recreate themselves there by water from Paris. Greenwich Park is not so crowded on holidays, as the Duke of Orleans park is every Sunday during the summer; but none of the French nobility shut up themselves and their houses as the English do. In the many years I have lived in, and near London, I could never see Lord Burlington's gardens, though I had frequently a ticket. In France the appearance of a gentleman,
and

and particularly a stranger, is a ticket to go any where, and ought to be a sufficient tye to every one not to abuse the confidence reposed in him. Scribbling upon the windows, and the like, is not common in France; I do not recollect that I have once seen any writing upon the windows of the public inns, but what was done by the *pencil* of an *English* hand. Indeed I saw at every inn I stopped upon the road to Paris, a certain Irish Peer's portrait, as perfectly drawn in France as it has been in England, with the name of the *painter* at full length.

P. T.

LEE

L E T T E R X.

St. Germain, July 21st, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Yesterday received a great many Letters from England, which had travelled after me to Lisle, Douay, &c. among which, I had the pleasure of one from you. I should have wrote to you sooner but that I have had my friend from England, Mr. ———, with me, who could make but a short stay, and therefore I have been continually out with him, to see what is to be seen in this neighbourhood. But before I mention Marli, Versailles, &c. I must give you some account of this most delightfully situated town. It is astonishing that a place so often mentioned in history, and so remarkable for being the residence of King James, after he had abdicated his throne, should not be better known in England than I believe it is. All I had ever heard of St. Germain was,
that

that in it stood a palace, where King James lived and died, and that it was now gone to decay: That is not the case, however, but if it were, the delightful situation of this town can never decay, till nature herself fails. St. Germain is situated upon a very high mountain; there are two palaces, the old and the new, though it is hard to guess which is the new one, as they are certainly both old. From the gardens and park to these palaces, is a prospect, not inferior, if not superior to any pleasing view in the whole world. From them you look down upon a most extensive and delightful plain, almost as far as the eye can carry; and this plain is environed quite round with a chain of mountains, on the sides of which, many villages, monasteries, windmills, vineyards, gardens and country seats, diversify the prospect. In the plain, which contains several villages, you have a full view of the beautiful twining river, and many fertile islands; the *picturesque* bridge of Peck,

Peck, and the barges passing between Rouen and Paris; the wonderful machine of Marli, with a view of that town and the royal gardens. From the park you go upon a noble terras, levelled by art, near two miles long, supported on the side that commands the prospect above described, by a very strong wall, and sheltered on the other by the most beautiful forest that can be conceived in nature. This noble terras and forest is not only open to horse and foot, but you are permitted to drive coaches, chairs, and in short, make every use of it that can be desired, except destroying the game with which it abounds, besides a great number of deer, which the king hunts here three times a week during the winter season. If you ask why Lewis the 14th did not prefer this noble situation to Versailles (which has its elevation from art) they tell you, that taking into its extensive view St. Dennis, the burial place of the Kings of France, was a memento he did not like; but a man might, with the same reason,

reason, dislike seeing his bed; and I really believe it was because nature had done too much at St. Germain to permit a prince of his genius, to display fully his boundless effusion of fancy and expence.

The town of St. Germain is also a very good one, and may be considered to Paris, what Richmond is to London. Here is a plentiful market every day, and I have eat a great many mackarell here perfectly fresh, though they are brought from Dieppe. The wine made here, and within a few leagues, is very good; I have some which cost only two guineas per hogshead, that is as good wine as I ever desire to drink. In whatever province a man lives in France, he should be content with the wine of that province; he is sure then to have it wholesome and good; but if you send for wine of another province, it is frequently corrupted, for they can brew in France as well as in England.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

D

L E T-

L E T T E R XI.

St. Germain, Aug. 15th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I AM much obliged to you for the Reviews, Magazines, and other books, which you sent me by my servant and child, who arrived safe and well a few days ago; had you not repeated your desire of such an account as I can give you of this country, I should have held my hand, when I found Mr. Smollet's Travels thro' France, &c. made a part of the packet. Did you send them to me to steal from, to *correct*, or to amuse? If the latter, they have answered your design. I had seen some extracts of these Travels in the news papers and the magazines, which had excited my curiosity; not to mention the pompous account given of them in the *Critical Review*, by his *coadjutors*, and Mr. *Hamilton*. I would not lessen the merit of Mr. Smollet's performance, he is certainly a man of genius and learning;

ing; but I have no great opinion of the Book *Midwives*, or Scotch Reviewers. A Scotch author is sure to be applauded, though he were no ways *concerned* in that periodical production. An English author, who even dares, in the most modest manner, either to censure a Scotch author, or a Scotchman's conduct, is sure of damnation from the pen of the Critical Reviewers: I have experienced this more than once; but in no instance so flagrant as from the pen of Mr. Hamilton's hackney writers.

I appeal to you, and to every man of candour, whether the conduct of Lord B—— relative to Lady Mary W—— M——'s Letters, can be strictly justified; yet these men have the effrontery to say, that Lord B—— behaved like a man of *honor* and *understanding*; adding, that I refused to “give up the papers without certain stipulations, which Lord B—— appears very properly to have disdained and rejected.” Now can any thing be more extraordinary than the boldness in which

this fellow has advanced so damnable a falsehood? You must know, and so must he, if he could read, and be honest, that I refused to deliver up the papers UPON ANY CONDITIONS WHATEVER; and THERE lay the OFFENCE; and from thence arose the treatment I met with: What, not sacrifice your honor, and every trust reposed in you, to oblige Lord B—! Certainly such a fellow ought to be damned and belied, not only in every Review, but in every Scotch author of the present century. I have, in a former letter, given you some account of the forwardness and impertinence of the common run of Frenchmen; Mr. Smollet has more than confirmed that character; but then it must be considered, that the character we BOTH have given (I beg his pardon for the liberty of the word BOTH) is the character of such men who court YOUR acquaintance; not such whose acquaintance you ought to court. Since I have been here, I have had the honor to be presented to many people of the first fashion in this kingdom;

dom;

dom; I say presented, for people of RANK and FASHION HERE, never take the least notice of any person that is not properly introduced; and after that no people are more free or better bred. So many *adventurers* come to France, as well as go to England, that the French nobility are much more cautious that the English, whom they admit to their houses or acquaintance; so that I cannot allow either my own, or Mr. Smollet's character of a Frenchman, to be a just one. It is just such a one indeed as is frequently to be met with in France; but it is by no means the character of a French GENTLEMAN; and the reason the French men and manners are, in general, so much decried by the English is, that the company that either travelling *authors*, or travelling *relaters*, in general keep, are just such men, as French travellers may pick up by dozens in England, who will be civil and troublesome by turns, for want of knowing how to behave otherwise.

Madam Là Countess de la Marck, sister to the present Duke D'Noailles, is the lady to whom I am obliged, not only for her own countenance and favor, but for her introduction of me to the Count her husband, her brother the Duke D'Noailles, and some other people of the first rank. This lady lives in a delightfully situated house in the forest of St. Germain, during the summer. It was a hunting seat of the present King's, who gave it to the Countess for her life. In a thick wood, which on one side adjoins to the very walls of this house, the Countess has erected a little theatre, where, under cover of the trees, were frequently performed some comic entertainments on a Sunday evening, besides dancing, and many other devices, hard by, calculated for the amusement of the common people. The wood on one side, the prospect on the other, and the elegant manner in which this house is furnished, and in which this accomplished lady lives, cannot be too much admired. She never dines till six o'clock, so that
those

those who visit her, have an open house and an elegant table always to go to, either to dine or sup at. The Countess has a perfect knowledge of music, and is a fine performer on the harpsichord. Happening to be there on the eve of St. Ann, I was much surprised to find a great many people of fashion entering her apartment, and presenting her with flowers, garlands, fruit, and various kinds of presents; upon enquiry, I found that the Countess's Christian name is ANN, and that it is the fashion to present on the eve of the saint's day, to those of the same name, such sort of presents. The Count, her husband, came from Paris the same evening, whom I had not before seen, and after presenting his own *bouquet*, he delivered to the Countess a most elegant ivory snuff-box environed with gold, and upon the outside of the lid was the portrait of the lady by whom it was sent, exquisitely handsome, and finely painted, playing on the guitar: As the day following was not too

late to make this offering, my wife, my daughter and myself, did not fail presenting to the Countess such a kind of *bouquet*, as our fancy could suggest, and the time would permit us to prepare.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

P. S. It is the general opinion, that the Countess de la Marck will not permit any more theatrical entertainments at her theatre in the wood.

“ *Un & une font deux,*

“ *C'est le nombre heureux*

“ *En gallanterie ;*

“ *Mais, quand un fois*

“ *Un & une font trois,*

“ *C'est la diablerie.”*

After such sort of diversions, it is rather dangerous for the *broken couples* to walk home two miles through the *chequered shade* of

of this delightful forest. In short, I am afraid the Countess has heard, that though they came out of town by *twos*, they often returned by *threes*, and that this will deprive us of a most agreeable entertainment.

L E T T E R XII.

St. Germain, Aug, 25th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Shall now give you some account of Versailles, where I have been two or three times. I had a great desire to see the King, and it was gratified in the fullest manner; for I not only stood very near him while he dressed, but very near him while he prayed also. After he was dressed, he went through a large range of apartments to the chapel, where high mass was performed under a most noble band of vocal and instrumental music. Nothing can be conceived more becoming the dignity of a great king offering up his prayers to the King of Kings, than this heavenly choir inspires, which the King of France does in the most solemn manner; and at the elevation of the host, strikes his breast, and frequently crosses himself. Exclusive of considering Lewis the 15th as a king, he is certainly a remarkably handsome man;

man; I have seen none of his subjects more so, and few so well; he is above attending to that great nicety of head dress, that so universally prevails here; the love of his subjects, and his own goodly countenance, plainly discover that he is a humane and generous prince. He would fain have saved the life of the assassin Damien, but in this instance ONLY, his parliament and subjects would not permit him to use his own despotic power; in which, however, they, perhaps, shewed more loyalty than humanity; for Damien was certainly a poor *fanatic*, without any accomplice, and actuated by his own blind zeal and ignorance: However, such an extraordinary and daring attempt after all, even made upon the person of a private man, requires, at least, capital punishment; and though I think he ought not to have lived, I cannot think of the manner in which he suffered, without horror. Now I am upon this subject, I cannot forbear telling you of an execution that I believe will give you some pleasure: I
own

own it did me. During the late war, an officer of high rank was going post from Paris, to take upon him the command of the French fleet at Toulon, his servants, baggage, and most of his retinue, were gone before him, and he travelled in his cap and great coat in a very private manner. At the gates of one of the towns he passed through, the officers of the customs were rather rude in examining his baggage, &c. and this delay occasioned his speaking to them with some degree of severity; this the officers so resented, that they as wickedly, as privately, put into his portmanteau a pound or two of tobacco, and some other things, that were contraband; and when he had proceeded ten or twenty miles farther on his journey, they pursued and overtook him, and there insisted on a re-examination of his baggage and found the snuff, &c. which *they alone* knew to be there. Upon this he was stopped, and taken before the proper officer of the next town, to be dealt with according to the laws of the country. He
in

in vain pleaded his own innocence, and the guilt of these villains, before a magistrate, who seemed determined to detain and punish him; when the general, unable to conceal his rank, or stifle his resentment any longer, instantly threw back his great coat and discovered his *cordon bleu*, and declared who, and what he was, and upon what service he was going; and at the same time assured the two accusers, and the magistrate who had hitherto sided with them, that he would not leave that town till he had seen them all three hanged; and he was in some measure as good as his word, for the two principals were executed before he did. Had you or I been so served, or any man of less rank, he might have been sent to the galleys for life; and the principal magistrate was either a fool, or a rogue, to hearken to such an accusation; the very pursuit of these fellows to make a second search, was a proof of their wicked conduct at the first. But to have done with melancholy subjects, and a little laugh; for I am determined
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to live free, and laugh at the variety of folly and wickedness of men, that living long, and seeing much, bring before me; I will therefore tell you a story: During the war in forty-five, a poor Scotch gentleman at Paris, was taken up and put into the Bastile, under a suspicion of being a spy, or, in some other shape, an enemy to the state: Though the man was innocent, yet he was greatly alarmed and terrified upon being so confined; but finding himself lodged in handsome apartments, and every necessary of life provided for him at the King's expence (for he was a royal prisoner) besides an excellent dinner, the Scotchman became not only content, but perfectly happy: The poor man, it seems, was a gentleman in distress, without fortune or friends; and the person from whom I had this story, assured me, that the Scotchman declared to him, that when the officer of the Bastile told him he was soon to be dismissed, he thought he should have become *daft* with sorrow, for he knew not where to go, nor how to

to live; and would have thought himself much obliged to the state, had they sentenced him to perpetual imprisonment in the Bastile. The aged countenance of this castle, its high towers, and the idea that no person is scarce ever admitted into it, but against their inclination (the poor Scotchman above excepted) and standing as it were to overlook, and keep in awe a whole city, renders it an object of great curiosity, and according to my idea, the *outside* is much the handsomest part of it. After all (next to our own laws) the laws of France are the best of any other kingdom in Europe. They keep the poor very poor, and they are very wise in so doing: the industrious poor do not want; and if poor do not want, I do not pity their poverty. I should rejoice to see the poor in England kept in the same medium, they will not then be above tilling the land, and doing the most servile offices of life, which is not the case among us; we have thousands of poor that ought to
do

do it; but they have been taught to read and write, and therefore will rather rob, forge, whore or pilfer, than set themselves down to labour, or any act of industry. I quite agree with Mandeville, that charity-schools educate a great number of thieves and whores, who would have been honest and useful, if they had been *unlearned*.

The great number of crosses, crucifixes, saints, &c. that are to be seen in every corner of the towns in France, and upon the public highways, are a continual memento to the poor, and a check to their committing violence to travellers. I am far from laughing at these objects, as is too commonly done by protestants who travel here, not considering that they contribute to their own preservation. I wish the commonalty of our poor had some kind of check that would prove as powerful. The common beggars, indeed are more numerous than with us; but common beggars have very little title to
com-

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compassion, are of no use to society, and, as General Hurst used to say to them, when they said they were starving: "Die! die! the sooner you are dead the better."

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XIII.

St. Germain, Aug. 30th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE palace of Versailles has been so often described, that I find it as unnecessary, as it is difficult, to speak of such an amazing pile of building ; which, however, seems to me to have been built with more expence, than real judgment ; and the greatest part of its real magnificence, perhaps, lies in the noble roads, and stately trees, by which it is every way approached. I have not yet found out where the very great number of capital pictures I have heard so much said of, are placed ; I have seen only a very few for such a palace, but they are certainly very fine ; those which most delighted me, are a full length of Lewis the 14th, in which the very soul and genius of that monarch, according to my idea of him, shines forth in his face ; he seems to be painted in a full bottom brown wig, put
over

over a smaller quite black ; but the under one, in reality, is to represent his own hair ; and the upper is a wig which was wore in his days, upon all occasions, in full dress. The other is a picture by Guido, which I am apt to believe is his own portrait, and that of his wife, or mistress, who has a pallett, brushes and colours, in her hands, and is receiving his instructions how to use them ; there is so much affection, beauty, attention and modesty, in this female face, and so much dignity and harmony in the whole performance, that though it is a little square picture, patched out, originally, from an oval form, I would prefer it, for my own pleasure, to any picture in the palace of Versailles. What disgraces this palace exceedingly is, the unclean manner in which ~~these~~ noble apartments the fine pictures, the glasses, furniture, statues, vauzes, &c. are permitted to remain in ; but that neatness which characterizes the houses of princes and people

ple of fashion in England, is not observed with the attention in this kingdom that it ought; nor do you scarce ever see a palace or fine house in France, that is, with its gardens, buildings, &c. perfectly compleat and finished; there is either a litter of stones, trees, rubbish, or workmen, or all together, at most houses and palaces I have yet seen. In the gardens of Versailles are an infinite number of statues; some, however, are very bad; but in a wood near the palace may be seen what is called the Baths of Apollo, where Lewis the 14th is represented, under the character of that God, just come out of the Bath, and six of his favourite ladies assisting him with linen, &c. and performing the offices due to so clean a Divinity; the seven figures, which are of white marble, are admirably disposed, and, I believe, finely executed: what adds to the beauty of this piece of sculpture, in my eye, is that the figures are about
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the size of real life: A Venus de Medicis eight feet high, is to me a shocking sight, however well it may be executed.

The last time I was at Versailles, I saw the Queen dine alone in her bedchamber, and her daughters, the princesses, in another apartment. I was also present when the Dauphin signed a marriage covenant in the presence of a cardinal, and the officers of state. The Queen is a little cheerful looking woman, and though she was but just recovered from a dangerous fit of illness, she condescended to walk through the apartments (her sedan chair following her) that those who had not seen her, might have an opportunity; and that those who knew her, might rejoice and congratulate her upon her recovery; for she is a good woman and much beloved; indeed the whole royal family are remarkable for their good nature. The Dauphin is of a fair complexion, and looks rather sickly; and his brother, Le Comte de Provence, often rallies him, and says he will

will be king; he is, indeed, a most sprightly and captivating child.

At the court of France there is no kissing of hands as with us: When a stranger is presented (which must be by the ambassador of his country) the ambassador mentions his name to the King, who returns the bow, but never speaks; not from pride, for he seems to have none, but to avoid the common place questions that must be put upon such occasions. What is very singular is, that you are admitted into the King's bedchamber to see him dress, even to the putting on his shirt, during part of which time, four or five bishops are upon their knees praying for him at his bedside.

I do not think any prince in Europe enjoys life more than Lewis the 15th; his principal diversions are hunting and shooting, and he is continually moving from one palace to another to partake of these his favourite amusements; not but that I am told he has a little garden, a *Trianon*,
where

L E T T E R XIII. 71

where he often picks his own sallad, makes his own soup, and enjoys the conversation of a few select friends, without the plague, impertinence, and, above all, the parade that generally attends royalty.

I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XIV.

St. Germain, Aug. 27th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

AMong the many beauties that the situation of this town affords, the contiguity of it to Marli is not the least. It is impossible for me to describe the beauties of this little palace. The water-works (which play every Sunday in the afternoon for two or three hours) you must often have heard of; but no man can conceive how enchanting a place these gardens are in a hot day, under the shade of the stately trees that adorn and cover the walks, while they are terminated whichever way you look, by these delightful and astonishing water-works playing in various forms. The agreeable sound of the cascades, the nappes d'eau, and the falling of the water, which rises in many places as high as the tallest trees that surround it, together with the variety of
dress,

dress, the company that are hastening from one part of the gardens to the other, appear in, render it, perhaps, the most picturesque scene the world can afford, or imagination conceive; and I would prefer the little chateau of Marli for my residence, to any dwelling I have seen in my whole life. The house contains nothing very curious, but the history of Don Quixote inimitably executed in the Gobelins manufactory: Indeed considered as a royal palace, it is but very small, but then there stands on each side the parterre, in a thick wood (so that the fronts only are seen) twelve little dwelling houses, six on each side, where, I am told, Lewis the 14th lodged his favourite women, and very elegantly lodged they were, having an agreeable communication not only from one to the other, under a thick cover of arched trees, but to the King's house also. There are in these gardens a great number of statues done from the most celebrated antiques, and some originals; that which,

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however,

however, delighted me most, and indeed, more than any thing in sculpture I ever saw, either in France or England, is two children playing with a goat, and feeding it with grapes; the face of one of the chub boys is so lively, in spite of the want of enlivened eyes, that I defy those who love children, not to wish to kiss him; the goat is pleased with the food, and the boy's mouth, which is opened to shew his delight, is most happily executed; these boys stand upon a kind of tripod, which is finely ornamented with vine leaves and fruit, the foliages of which are exquisitely finished, and the whole performance cannot fail striking every beholder with delight, were it not characterized as something curious, by being the only piece of sculpture in these gardens, or even at Versailles, that is enclosed, and protected from injury, by a circus of iron rails. *Marliis* but a little walk from this town, and you may conclude I often visit it. I ought to mention the very extraordinary piece

piece of machinery that throws the water from the river Seine up a very high mountain to supply these gardens, as well as those of Versailles, with water, for the purposes of use and pleasure; but a description thereof has, I believe, often been given, if a description can, of so very complicated a piece of mechanism, as it certainly is; but since water can be conveyed up a mountain in some manner, I am inclined to think this might be done by some mechanical genius of these days, with half the labour, and without the great annual expence that is employed to keep these works in order. It is said they were constructed by a peasant, who had for some time made his wife and family unhappy, from the thoughtful and melancholy manner he appeared to be in; but having brought matters to bear in his own imagination, he suddenly broke out in raptures, exclaiming that the business was done, and soon after produced a model, which was carried into execution. If this was really a fact (as I am assured it is)

the work cannot be too much admired;
and I am so bigotted that I would not
wish to see it amended. I wish this man
had taught his countrymen the art of
pen making, for I can hardly use this to
tell you that

I am, &c.

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R X V .

St. Germain, Sept. 3d, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Told you in my former letter that the King was very fond of hunting and shooting, and I had yesterday the pleasure to see him open the shooting season of partridges, which was indeed a very fine sight. I am almost afraid to tell you (as you are so good a sportsman) all I saw; will you believe me, when I tell you that this sport was opened upon the plains beneath this town, and about half way between it and Paris? It was not a mile from the high road when I turned off to approach the place where I saw the King, his company, and his guards, as I was in an Italian chair; I went a good way round to get up in the rear; as I passed along I heard the King continually firing, and yet to my astonishment I thought all the partridges in the creation were under the

wheels of my chaise; I do averr it, that the birds that run and rose, from the disturbance of my chaise and my servant's horse only, could not be less than two hundred; and while they were flying and running, the hares which were disturbed by the King and his party, came bounding over the plain towards me in numbers, like dogs in pursuit of a hare. When I had got in the rear of the King, I left my chaise and walked up, and saw him keep an almost continual fire, five or six shots frequently without moving his horse's foot, for the minute he had fired, another gun was put into his hand; nor did I see him once miss; but at length a crippled bird escaped towards my chaise, and having satisfied my curiosity, I had a mind to gratify my vanity, and go in search of the wounded in the field of battle; in short I had a mind to sup upon a fowl that was killed by a King; however, though I saw many (for I had the whole field of battle to myself) I took but one: it was a nice
young

young bird, and I buttoned it in my pocket; but when I had got near St. Germain, I put my hand in my pocket to examine whether my bird was safe or alive; it convinced me of the latter instantly, by following my hand with the utmost subtilty, and flying quite away with all the vigour of a sound bird, which mortified me more than it ought; but it was royal game.

The account of the game I saw, I know must appear very extraordinary to an English sportsman; but then it must be remembered, that a person, without liberty, who kills game in France, is sent to the galleys for life; and the partridges are not only to be seen running about in abundance here, and at Versailles, but even at the very walls of Paris. There is an Officer on purpose to load the King's fowling pieces; nor does he fire one off, that is not loaded by that officer. I am told that nothing can appear so singular to an English sportsman as the stag hunting in the
E 4 forest

forest of St. Germain : The King, and all the French nobility who hunt with him, ride with large saddles, pistols, and very heavy strong jack boots, the noise and rattling of which, quite shuts out the cry of the hounds; they do not, however, ride so hard (nay they cannot in this forest) as our sportsmen in England; a circumstance that gives me great pleasure, as it will induce me to partake of a diversion here, which I seldom did in England: I am not fond of a neck or nothing chase.

The forest of St. Germain is in most places too thick to ride through, it is therefore cut out into a great number of stars, which have a post fixed in the center with the name of the *etoile* painted thereon: The *rays* of these stars are avenues cut quite through in a direct line, and in these avenues the game is pursued; so that a person who is, thrown out, (I think the sportsmen call it) if they know the forest, they have only to ask towards which *etoile*

LETTER XV. 81

etoile the hounds are gone, and rejoin the company.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

P. S. The King killed two hundred and thirty-six partridges yesterday.

E 5

LET.

L E T T E R X V I .

St. Germain, Sept. 7th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

NOW I have given you the best account I can of other people's houses, will give you some account of my own. It is enter'd by two large gates, or porte cochere, where in a good sized court, are two coach houses, and stables for four horses, adjoining to which, thro' a handsome iron gate, you enter my garden, or rather gardens, for I have two, well wall-ed in, and planted with a great variety of wall fruit, grapes, standard apricots, figs, &c. besides a very large almond tree, the kernel of which is most delicious; the house has nothing to recommend it, but being large, and having the prospect of the garden on one side, and a delightful view of Marli and the adjacent country on the other part of the river is to be seen from it: For this house I pay six hundred livres a year (about twenty-seven pounds) but

but had I sold the fruit that has even rotted upon the trees, it would have produced me half the rent; a piece of neglect I shall not be guilty of another year; but I did not know the fashion of the country; to be sure I see no more impropriety in selling grapes than wine, and I believe what I have in my garden will make me a hoghead. The fruit here is in great plenty and delicious, more so, I am persuaded, than it is farther southward; I mean apricots, peaches, pears, &c. To be sure, oranges cannot have the flavour of those which grow in warmer climates; though the large and beautiful orangeries at Versailles look as if they did not want the power of sunshine. It is certainly much hotter here than in England, during the summer months: I wish it was so in the winter, for I hate intense cold.

Butchers meat, which is of all kinds very good, is to be had for three-pence farthing English per pound. A man may certainly live better with his family at St. Germain in France upon three hundred pounds.

pounds a year, than at Richmond in England upon five. The meat in this kingdom is, as it were, all stall fed, and the beef is excellent. There is not a quadruped throughout the kingdom that is not in house every night. There are scarce any inclosures in France; and a horse let loose at Calais, might, for ought I know, run away to Marseilles. I have just read "The Gentleman's Guide thro' France, by a Sea Officer," who has certainly given those who have a mind to follow his footsteps, or frugality, a great many useful hints; even the Reviewers (though he did not *touch* them I believe) have let him pass muster pretty well. Now as the public have had a doctor's and a sailor's observations through France, suppose you was to print mine for the *honour of the soldiers*.

I cannot help making a remark, while it occurs to me, relative to the great action the French make use of in their ordinary conversation, for which we are apt to laugh at them. But, perhaps, this
action

action is not so much the consequence of their being Frenchmen, as men living under the laws of France. An Englishman speaks his mind freely in plain English; but a Frenchman durst not speak in *plain French*; and, therefore, a shrug of the shoulders, an elevated arm, a contracted brow, or a gathering up, as it were, of one's whole body, may be, and frequently is, as well understood as words; and yet for these bodily actions, a man cannot be conveyed to the Bastile. The English, Irish and Scotch, who reside here, are as perfect masters of the *shrug*, as any of the natives; and even among us, how many men, especially in trade, have their credit injured, and their characters blasted, by a shrug of their shoulders.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XVII.

St. Germain, Sept. 10th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

MR. Smollet somewhere says, if a stranger dies in France, all his effects are seized for the King's use. This assertion alarmed me exceedingly; for though I have not much to be seized, I have more than I can in justice to my family risque upon my own life. I therefore made it my business to enquire strictly into this matter, and have reason to believe it is never done but when a stranger dies possessed of houses or land, and that their personal effects are not meddled with. Indeed I bought a second-hand coach, that was the property of an English gentleman who died in France, at the Hotel of the Duke of Richmond, where it was sent till properly claimed; and it was sold for the benefit of his English heirs, not the King of France: Besides, I am well assured that one of our
ambassa-

ambassadors procured an exemption from this law in favour of the English subjects who die here; and I am sure that the effects of Col. Forrester, who died lately at Toulouse, were sold there for the benefit of his daughter in England. I do not mean to insinuate any false colouring is meant in Mr. Smollet's account; it is the general opinion and assertion of the French themselves; and an English lady, who has resided here many years, insisted upon it to me that it is so. Circumstanced, however, as I am, and known to people who partake often of the King's favour and friendship, I am in no pain about what little I have here; on the contrary, I intend very soon to come over to England in order to fetch my books, and some other things I stand in need of; having obtained liberty of Mad. La Comtesse De La Marck to address them to her, and her promise to procure an order that they shall be sent to my house, upon a reliance that I will not abuse the confidence reposed in me; otherwise books must
go

go to a kind of stationers-hall, and be very closely examined at Paris, and all kind of English household furniture is prohibited in France. It is much to be wondered at, that so politic a nation should not remove every objection, and give every encouragement to strangers to settle among them. I suppose their refusing christian burial to all such who do not die in the faith of the church of Rome, has deterr'd, and does continually deterr thousands from *living*, for fear of *dying* here. I think, however, I have got the better of these objections, having seen enough of Life not to be over anxious how long I shall live; and quite indifferent when I am dead, where I am buried. The Germans have a particular spot of Ground at Paris for burying their dead under; and so might the English, if any English ambassador should ever think it worth while to make such a request; and it is, in some measure necessary, to prevent the expence of sending the dead bodies of such as myself, over to England for interment. It
is

is very singular to observe, which every Englishman who lives at Paris must, that the most public transactions of this kingdom are first made known to the generality of people there by the English newspapers; and it is no less extraordinary to see the many flagrant falsities, and the often scandalous abuse of even the King and ministry of France lying publicly upon the tables of many coffee-houses in Paris: Were half as much said in any other manner than in an English news-paper, the publisher of such would soon *shut up his shop*.

What an infinite deal of abuse have I seen here thrown upon the King and people relative to the execution of the young man at Abbeville! It is true, I believe, when the relations of this unhappy youth (who are people of condition) applied to the King for his pardon, the King absolutely refused it, making (as I have been assured) this sensible and modest reply; "No: Was not Damien torn to death
" by horses for assaulting me, an earthly
" King;

“ King; and shall I pardon those who
 “ insult the King of Kings?” I cannot,
 without some degree of resentment, read
 the many cook’d up stories which are
 continually in the English news-papers
 reflecting so often on the severity and
 injustice of so humane a prince as the
 King of France. Those who know hu-
 man nature best, should rather look upon
 a despotic king of such a kingdom as this
 (whose single word is a law) with admi-
 ration and astonishment, that he is not
 (intoxicated with such an unlimited power)
 abusing it every hour by acts of injustice
 and oppression, as other absolute princes
 do; instead of inflicting no punishment
 upon any delinquent, but by a formal course
 of law. If judges are corrupt, that is a
 king’s misfortune, not his fault; and
 judges may be corrupt in all kingdoms.
 Notwithstanding our boasted liberty in
 England, I will never call it a free country,
 while the doctrine of libels stands upon
 the footing it now does. By the laws of
 England, a libel is to be tried in the
 country

country where it was published; the reason is obvious; because there the jury and neighbours are supposed to be best acquainted with the person libell'd, and the intention of the libeller; and therefore if the jury had a power to fine or imprison the offender, according to their opinion of the heinousness of the offence, it would be a very just and proper mode of punishing libellers. In all other cases a jury know, that if they find a man guilty of felony, he must be hanged, and for petty thefts transported; but the jury that finds a man guilty of publishing a libel, knows not his punishment; they not only find him guilty of publishing a certain paper, but they find him guilty of publishing whatever kind of explanation an artful, or a wicked attorney will set forth, and insinuate to be the author's meaning in the paper published; six months after the conviction, the offender is to appear in Westminster-Hall, to receive judgement for the offence, from a judge who knows nothing of the merits of the cause,

but

but as it is reported to him; and there may be sentenced to have his nose slit, his ears cut off, or nail'd to the pillory, or both, imprisoned for life, fined, and high securities demanded that he may be unable to procure; and thus a man, who has only in print, or writing, exposed the wickedness, or cowardice, of his neighbour, and, perhaps, not exceeded the truth, is liable to a more grievous punishment than even death itself. It may be said, on the other side, but what judge will inflict so grievous a punishment for so slight an offence? To which I reply, none, perhaps, of the present upright judges of the King's-Bench. But suppose a wicked or corrupt judge should ever preside there, who may be libelled himself for his male administration of justice; such a judge would become a party concerned against every libeller; and such a judge has it in his power to inflict the punishments I have mentioned above, and that too for an offence, that the jury who found the guilt, would not have fined the offender

offender twenty pounds for, had the power been vested, as it ought, in them. While this law is maintained in England, I will maintain it, that no law is more, if so grievous. However trivial the crime of the young man executed at Abbeville may appear in the eyes of us protestants, he was certainly guilty of a high offence against the religion and laws of his country, and therefore merited punishment. Crimes are not capital in proportion to the REAL heinousness of the offence, but in proportion as society is injured. The man that steals a guinea from me upon the public highway, is hanged; but the man that robs me of my good name in private, passes with impunity, and often with applause.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XVIII.

St. Germain, Sept. 16th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE account I have given you, and that which you have read of Mr. Smollet's of the great disregard to cleanliness among the French nation in general, is to be understood, however, not to belong to their persons, but their houses, cookery, &c. The ladies of France, in particular, are very attentive to cleanliness about their own persons. The various kinds of washing chairs, *biddets*, &c. that are exposed to sale at almost every shop in Paris, plainly shew, that partial bathing is as much in practice in modern France, as general bathing was in old Rome; even the female servants and common people are much cleaner about the heels in particular, than they are in England.

There are certainly a great number of fine women in France; and a man who cannot see and feel the influence of their beauty,

beauty, in spite of the singularity of the *paint, pomatum and powder, so much complained of*, I more than suspect, can look upon a beautiful woman in England with a philosophical indifference.

I am afraid we have a great many pretty women in England, who never wet their skin, but when they wash their hands and face; and I often think of a witty saying of L—d C——d's upon this subject, it is too well known to be repeated; but I am well satisfied it does not hold good in this kingdom. I must, however, own, the quantity of *rouge* put on by the ladies here, is very singular, and to outdo what nature ever did, very absurd; the truth is, it steals upon them by degrees, their eyes become habituated to it, and they do not see it in the same manner that every one else does; add to this, it is a mark of distinction; and I am persuaded if it was not in England a mark of *another kind*, it would prevail as much there as it does here; but if the ladies of France would leave off snuff, they would captivate men
of

of all nations, as well as their own, except such as are *worn down by age or infirmities*, to an almost total indifference to the sex in general; however, I know some ladies of high rank, who use no paint; in deep mourning none do: Mad. la Marck, for instance, I have never seen with any; nor, indeed, does she want paint, or any kind of art; her good sense, good breeding, and agreeable person, require none of those aids, if aids they are: It is said, a good parson needs no band; and I never see a plain face, or a bad person, in high dress, that I do not consider the bearer ignorant, foolish, and vain. I cannot account for it, but this kingdom abounds more with human deformity, than any part of the world I have ever seen; and I now must remind you to be particularly careful how you walk in the streets of Paris, the narrowness of which, the great number of coaches, carts, cabriolets, and various kinds of voitures, together with the multitude of people crowding through every street, render walk-

walking in Paris very dangerous: Scarce a day passes that terrible accidents do not happen from the brutality of coachmen, carmen, and the like; and though I have been particularly cautious and careful, I have had some narrow escapes. The last time I was at Paris, a gentleman was thrown down by the horses of a cart, which had a stone in it not less than five ton weight; it was upon the entrance of the Pont-Neuf, and the progress of the carriage was stopped by the obstruction of the poor unfortunate gentleman's leg; instead of backing the carriage to discharge the leg from under the wheel, the man who conducted it, either from ignorance, or surprize, was going to advance, had not I seized the thiller horse, and prevented him; however, it was to no purpose, for the poor man's leg was smashed to pieces; a vast mob soon collected round him, and in spite of all that I could say, I could not prevail upon any body to carry him to the nearest surgeon; curiosity, not humanity, seemed to surround this object,

and therefore I was unable to continue an useless spectator any longer, or indeed to partake of the diversion of the opera, to which I was going; so returned home. The next morning I made what enquiry I could, but I could learn nothing about him. Paris is not informed of accidents, robberies, murders and the like, by daily papers, as we are in London, and, perhaps, this is one reason why people are less upon their guard: beside the accidents that happen in broad day-light, there are a great many murders committed at Paris in the night. There is a place in Paris where the bodies of murdered persons, or such who have been thrown out of the windows, are exposed, in order to be owned, and this place is seldom without the body of a murdered or drowned person: These murders, however, I presume, are not committed in cool blood, but rather rencounters that happen at houses of ill fame. The common people in England decide their quarrels, generally at handy-cuffs; but in France every
barber

barber wears a sword and almost every man knows how to use one; and this, in some measure, accounts for the frequency of murders in Paris.

A stranger whose attention in the streets is most likely to be employed in looking about him, ought not to walk in Paris till that curiosity is abated, for it certainly is not safe even to the citizens themselves.

I forgot to tell you, that I called upon one of the Swiss guards (who are distributed in every part of Paris) to secure the driver of the cart I mentioned above; and if I might judge of the fellow's punishment from the terror he seemed to be under, it must have been very exemplary, for no man going to the gallows, could have betrayed more perturbation of mind. The police of Paris is, indeed, wonderful: I know a gentleman, who, in his cups, lost his watch, and though he could not remember where he had been, the police informed him, and restored him his watch the next morning. Any injury done to either a stranger, or citizen, if complained

of, will be instantly heard, and severely punished: there are forty-eight commissaries in different parts of Paris, for this business only. You will think it strange, yet it is, nevertheless, true, that if a man gets drunk, and forgets where he lay, the police will inform him, and with whom he lay, if he had a bedfellow.

I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R X I X .

St. Germain, Sept. 23d, 1766.

D E A R S I R ,

TO an Englishman it seems very strange to go into an inn and make a bargain for his bed, his supper, his horses and servants, before he eats or sleeps; yet this is common in France, and for a stranger even necessary; for though you will meet with no kind of civil reception at the inns upon the road in France, as with us, at your entrance; you will meet with an exorbitant bill (without this precaution) at your departure; therefore when you come into an inn, where you intend to stay all night, or to dine, ask the price of your room and bed, and order a supper or dinner at thirty, forty, fifty or sixty sols per head, you will then be well served with, perhaps, many dishes, any one of which, had you ordered in particular, would have been charged treble. There are certainly many disagreeable circumstances arise in

travelling in France, that do not so frequently attend travelling in England; but then it is in England alone that these inconveniencies do not arise: However, a man that can have good bread, good wine, and an hard egg, with clean sheets, and shelter over his head, has a great many comforts that many of his betters are without. Certainly the Castle at Marlborough is not to be found in every town in France. I travelled once with an Irish family from Chester to Bath; we were five days upon the road, and these people (otherwise very sensible and agreeable) were unhappy, because they could not meet with milk for their tea, or potatoes for their mutton, at every inn we breakfasted or supped at; and I dare say, a Frenchman finds himself very unhappy upon our roads for want a soup and bouilli. I have found no loss for the want of soup, &c. but I have been miserable for want of tea, and when I had it, for want of a kettle to boil water, and a tea-pot to prepare it in. A Turk would think all the inns
in

in England terrible, were he to taste their bad coffee, or find no opium at them. A man with a small purse, a bad constitution, and of a peevish temper, cannot travel from one side of this kingdom to the other, without meeting with a great variety of circumstances that will ruffle his mind; and so he would, if he sat at home in his own chimney corner: It is not, however, what we meet with at sea port towns, at auberges on the road, or the company that in general frequent such towns and such houses, that are to characterize a nation. I have seen a sailor put a quid of tobacco out of his mouth to sun it for a second regale, and another steal it, and put it reeking hot into his own; and a man that keeps such company, without ever seeing better, might with truth say, that Englishmen are the foulest feeders in the universe. At elegant tables in France, to every cover is set a large deep glass, three parts full of water, wherein the bowl of your wine glass is inverted, to keep it cool and clean; for

as often as you drink, it is again immerfed in the water-glaſs; and ſhould you either dip your fingers after dinner, or waſh your mouth in this (though your own water-glaſs) it would be deemed the height of ill-breeding. The eaſy addreſs of people of faſhion in France, is very captivating. We had the honour to be preſented, not long ſince, to the Princeſs De Beauvau, by a lady of the firſt quality; there was a kind of chair of ſtate placed for her Highneſs, and when ſhe entered the room, though a little woman, her high birth and breeding was very conſpicuous in her air and manner; ſhe was attended by two or three gentlemen of her houſehold, who conducted her to her chair, and I expected to find nothing but this ſtate during the whole time I had the honour to be in her preſence; but we were ſoon agreeably ſurprized with the eaſy and familiar converſation of one of the moſt agreeable women in the world. The Prince her huſband (who had the cordon bleu) and who commands in the province of Languedoc,

is

is a very tall, genteel, grave man, speaks Italian and reads English, and did me the honor of offering me his countenance and favour, when he understood I set out with a view of going farther southward. Nothing is so disagreeable as a low bred Frenchman; no man is more agreeable than a well bred Frenchman: A low bred Englishman shocks you with his vulgarity; a low bred Frenchman sickens you with his impertinence. Major A——d, who after being covered with wounds at Fontenoy, was taken prisoner by the French, and the officer to whom he surrendered, concealed him with his own regimental, to protect him from any farther mischief or insult. There are, besides, many instances of good breeding (not to mention St. Cas) that French gentlemen have shewn to the English in peace and war, that I own favours a good deal of humanity as well as politeness, and ought to have deterred a man, who has established the character of an historian, from stigmatizing a whole nation, abounding with po-

lite arts, ingenious men, and beautiful women, as a parcel of painted dolls of one sex, and hottentots of the other; and yet in spite of all that can be said, the very dirtiest and lowest beggars in this kingdom, would find a good sale for their old cloaths in the kingdom of Scotland. *There stands no tub behind the kitchen door in France to ease nature in;* nor have I ever seen or heard of *mortified flesh* at a table in France, either private or public; and certainly you may dine for four and thirty sols (which is about seventeen pence) at a table D'Hôte at Paris, in a manner that you cannot in London, upon such variety, for seventeen shillings, and with your dinner you have included a pint of excellent wine. The best roast beef I ever eat, was at a table D'Hôte at Paris; and at these tables, in general, the dishes are served upon plate, not very clean it must be confessed. That elegant writer, Lord Bolingbroke, speaking of the French nation, says, " They are people so near the " world, as to have all its conveniencies;
" so

“ so far from the world, as to be a stran-
 “ ger to all its inconveniencies : Wanting
 “ nothing which goes to the ease and hap-
 “ piness of life ; embarrassed by nothing
 “ which is cumbersome.” According to
 this account, by a nobleman who lived
 many years in France, every man of re-
 flection would, perhaps, wish to have
 been born a Frenchman. According to
 Mr. Smollet’s Account of a nation im-
 proved, perhaps, since Lord Bolingbroke
 resided among them, a man may as well
 eat with the dogs of Greenland, or drink
 urine with the civilized inhabitants of
 Kamschatka, as eat an olio of mortified
 flesh, dirt and tobacco, with a Parisian of
 the present age. But I will venture to
 say, that either the Doctor has kept very
 bad company, or his own ill state of health
 and want of appetite, or both together,
 have been the means of warping his judg-
 ment, and corrupting his own imagination.
 To read the account given of the King’s
 Bench Prison in the History of Sir Laun-
 celot Graves, and that of a Journey
 through

through France, a man would be inclined to prefer a twelvemonth's residence in that university, rather than live the same time among the Hottentots of Paris or Nice; and yet I believe the author of that romance is better able to give a just account of the King's College in the Borough, from three months residence there, than to give the character of a most extensive kingdom from having resided eighteen months at Nice.

Mr. Smollet says, " A true bred French-
 " man dips his fingers, embrown'd with
 " snuff, into his plate filled with ragout ;
 " between every three mouthfuls he pro-
 " duces his snuff-box and takes a fresh
 " pinch, with the most graceful gesticulati-
 " ons ; then he displays his handkerchief,
 " which may be termed the flag of abomi-
 " nation, and in the use of both, scatters
 " his favours among those who have the
 " happiness to sit near him." If a man
 will play at bowls, he must take rubbers;
 and if the doctor's account of a *true* bred
 Frenchman be true, it is by no means the
 behavi-

behaviour of a well bred Frenchman. An English lady of fashion who resides here, to whom I lent Smollet's Travels, says, he certainly lodged at ale-houses, and conversed with the lowest class of mechanics that frequent such houses.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET

LETTER XX.

St. Germain, Sept. 30th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Forgot to tell you, that my Friend, Mr. W——, went to Paris, without me, and happened to dine there with the Calas family, You may imagine how much I regretted not being of this party, and more so, when he gave me an account of the good sense and modest deportment of them all; but particularly of the two daughters of this unfortunate man. They have, however, experienced an almost universal regard. The King of France, the clergy of France, as well as the nobility of their own and our kingdom, have, upon this occasion, shewn the liberality of their purse, as well as their liberal way of thinking; neither their religion on this side the water, nor their country on our side, checked the dictates of humanity; and they have experienced as much attention from the catholics of their own country,

country, as they have pity from the whole world. I once saved the life of a Jew, and when the grateful young man was recovered, he came to thank me, and assured me at the same time, that he every day offered up a prayer to God for my preservation : I told him the best return he could make, would be to relieve a Turk or a Christian with the same readiness I relieved him, if such an occasion offered ; and I believe he left me (so far a Christian convert,) with a full resolution to do as he would be done by.

I must inform you that it is not reckoned very reputable for an Englishman to frequent coffee-houses in Paris ; but as you will be desirous of seeing the English newspapers, I would recommend the Caffé De Conti at the end of the Pont-Neuf. It is most delightfully situated, and you are served with excellent coffee, tea, orgeat, and bread and butter, with more elegance than in any coffee-house in London ; the Gazetteer and Lloyd's Evening Post come regularly there every post ; and

Monf.

Monf. Felix, who is an Italian and his wife a Frenchwoman, will not only please you by their great civility, but will, in many respects, be very useful, if you consult them where to buy, and what to give, for every thing you want. The evening assemblies at these houses are not always composed of the best company; though there is often to be met men of character and fashion, of all nations, at the Caffé De Conti, which is the best I have seen in Paris. When you go from Paris to Versailles, ask your coachman what house he recommends, and then direct him to go to the Hotel Juste, Rue du Vieux, Aupres le Bureau de la Guerre. At all other houses (as my landlord Monf. Deloro, assures me) they give the coachman three or four livres for the English freight he brings, and that HE alone does not: It is, however, a very good house, and abounds in excellent beds; and besides, he can furnish you with a key to see the Baths of Apollo, and other places that are usually locked up in the gardens.

In

In one of the Apartments at Versailles is a very fine musical clock and time keeper; at the eleventh hour, two doors fly open, which present bells, on which the hour is struck by two little figures, after which, a cock, which is placed on one side, crows, and an eagle on the other claps her wings; between them is a little door, which suddenly flies open, and a figure advances, representing Lewis the 14th, over whose head the clouds immediately open, and an angel descends, and places a crown upon his head, which then returns, and is again enclosed in the clouds, the king retires, the doors shut, and the whole scenery is finished by a very indifferent musical performance on bells within; it is, however, a very ingenious piece of mechanism, as well as a very fine ornament to the apartment, and considering when it was made, not unworthy of such a place.

There is also in the King's bedchamber two chandeliers of solid gold, of the most exquisite

exquisite workmanship I ever beheld; if I mistake not, they cost four thousand pounds for the work alone; but I am not quite sure about this matter. One thing I must observe here, that is very princely indeed, the contrary of which, so shamefully disgraces our palaces, and every thing worthy to be seen in them; I mean that scandalous custom of giving money at every door you pass, which are generally opened to you by different Persons. In France no servant about the royal palaces can be prevailed on to take money. I urged a servant of the King's who had been particularly civil, (and no other person in sight) to take a six livre piece for his trouble, but he refused it with peremptory politeness, and said he could not disgrace his royal master in such a manner; and yet, upon enquiry, I found this to be a servant that lights the King's fire, and does those kind of offices of the bed-chamber. An itinerant Jew in France will enter a palace of a Prince of the Blood,

and

and in the hall thereof open his budget, and display his hardware, for a day together, as if it were his own house, without dreaming of giving offence to the prince, or a bribe to his domestics.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XXI.

St. Germain, Oct. 4th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING by favor of Mad. de la Marck, obtained permission to bring over my books, some household furniture, and many things I stood in need of, I set out this morning for London; but the business I have to do there, and the approach of winter, I fear will deprive me of the pleasure of seeing Suffolk, and my *friends* at Ipswich: I shall therefore write to you as I pass along, and tell you what I have seen worthy of notice. I set out to make this long journey quite alone, in my own cabriolet, and without a servant; a circumstance I would not have chose, had it not been inconvenient to my family to have taken him. The first post from Paris six miles, is to St. Dennis, and tho' I had never been there, I had not the curiosity to see the fine things that are there shewn: therefore I can only tell you that

it

it is a very pretty village; and the cathedral, monasteries, &c. add much to the beauty of it. The next town I passed was Ecouen, and from thence to Luzarche and Chantilly: At this village I stopped to see the chateau of the Prince De Condi. It is situated in a very fine park, and the chateau (which stands in the middle of a most elegant garden, abounding with a great variety of water works, which were all playing) is, in the truest sense, a chateau; for it stands in the midst of a large canal of water, and is approached by a bridge, and defended by some pieces of cannon. From the apartments, some of which are very fine, is to be seen such a variety of beauties, that a person who only goes to look at it, cannot possibly give a description of it to another: I must content myself therefore in telling you it is an object as much worth seeing as any thing I have yet seen in France. The very apartments (which are at some distance from the chateau) for the servants, &c. are more like a country town, than the
out

out offices to a country seat ; but I cannot forbear mentioning the stables ; one would think that Swift had been the architect ; as the Houyhnhnms of this prince are as magnificently lodged as any prince in Europe is. I really imagined the stables had been the chateau, and the chateau the stables. This building is not only *fine*, but astonishingly GREAT ; for besides two hundred and forty stalls for the houyhnhnms, there is included within the building a most noble circus for their exercise and diversion ; and what added not a little to the dignity of this houyhnhnm palace was, that almost every apartment was occupied. After dinner I proceeded on my journey to Longueville and Clermont, where I lay ; but though there are houses and gardens belonging to the prince of that name, well worth seeing, I proceeded the next day on my journey. But before I entered this last town, I must tell you a circumstance that put me into a little disorder, and my horse into a great heat. I had idled away too much of the day-light at Chantilly,

and

and had a good league to travel after night, to reach Clermont, for I found Longueville was no place to lodge at. Between these two towns I perceived a human figure before me, which the white pavement of the road rendered very conspicuous, though quite night; but he instantly disappeared by going off the pavement to the right or left; and as I passed along, I looked very earnestly on both sides, but could see nothing of him; however, happening to look behind, I saw a man pursuing me with all his might; I therefore put on for near a mile, as fast as my horse could go, and being satisfied that no person on foot could overtake me at that distance, I began to walk my horse coolly into the town, but before I got into it, I perceived my running footman again in pursuit of me, and though I had little pistols in my pocket, and could see the lights in the town, yet I chose rather to trust to my horse's heels than my own prowess; and yet, perhaps, after all, this man had no evil design. Robberies
are

are very seldom committed here, but then they are always attended with murder.

The next day I passed through St. Just, D'Avigny, Breteuil, Fleurs, and Hebecourt, to Amiens, where I lay; and where I left my horse, who was become too much fatigued to proceed with him on so long a journey without injury. Here I was well entertained at the hotel de Duc de Bourbon, with a good bed, a good supper, and a pint of Burgundy, and paid only three livres, i. e. half a crown; but then I left my horse at a livre per day. Amiens is an old ill looking town, has a fine old cathedral, and a noble walk near it. From Amiens I passed through Pequigny, Flixcourt and Ailly, to Abbeville, where you may imagine I eat my breakfast with appetite, for it is thirty miles from Amiens. My landlady at the Bull's Head there, brought a pot of excellent green tea, with good bread and butter, and served in an uncommon elegant manner; for, in general, they do not understand

stand tea making here. While I breakfasted, I made some enquiry about the young man executed here not long since, whose execution I mentioned in a former letter to you. She told me that the minute he came upon the scaffold, his head was cut off, and afterwards his body burnt; she also assured me, that he was a very bad man; and she looked so good herself, that I was inclined to believe every word she said; and I am persuaded she declared the sentiments of every individual in the whole town. As I passed over the market where he was executed, I saw the remaining ashes of a large fire, and near it, the pavement much stained with blood; which I concluded (for I asked no question about it) was the blood and the ashes of this unhappy youth.

The view of Abbeville, which every way you approach it, is picturesque beyond conception; I think I never saw any thing like it; and indeed it is a very pretty town when you are in it, which is not the case in general in this country; for the good

G

churches,

churches, convents, spires, &c. give many towns at a distance, a noble appearance, that are very contemptible within the walls.

From Abbeville, I passed through Nouvion, Bernay and Nampont, to Montreuil, which is one of the towns that make a most noble appearance at a mile or two distance, and when you enter it, you cannot but be astonished to see so much expence to wall in, and fortify a town, that contains little else but mean houses and inhabitants. Here I only staid to change horses, and I passed Cormant and Samers before I reached Boulogne, having made three journeys from Amiens to Boulogne in thirteen hours, which is fifteen posts. Though I told you I was quite alone, I did not want entertainment; my eyes were agreeably entertained every mile I passed, with something singular or beautiful: The country is exceedingly so throughout this whole journey; and it is not unpleasant to observe the falling off of vineyards as you approach to the northward, and the corn taking place of the wine.

wine. Perhaps this particular time of the year is the most pleasing to pass through any country in Europe; the great variety of colour, the cut and uncut corn, and the industry of the peasants, who are to be seen in such abundance over every part of France, is very delightful; and the great number of both sexes that are employed in this business, renders the objects more pastoral.

Upon the road between Paris and Clermont, I was much surprised to see a post chaise approaching me, that seemed to be decorated in a most extravagant manner; but upon coming up to it, I found that what I had conceived a real ornament to the carriage, to be a vast parade of fire-work that was fixed, and which I perceived had been all burnt off; I presume in compliment to the person whose house they had lately left. These kind of compliments are very common at the houses, nay at the tables, of people of fashion in France. About a fortnight ago, after dinner, at Mad. de la Marck's, (it

being the birth-day, I think, of the Count) with the desert, was brought in a very fine basket of (in appearance) large beautiful peaches; it was so contrived, however, that nobody offered to touch them till every body had done with the other fruit, and then a match was put to a little fuzee on one side the basket, and the artificial peaches entertained the eye in a variety of explosions, as much as (had they been real) they could the palate of an epicure. Now I mention an epicure, I must inform you that I saw in one market at Paris, the morning I left it, besides an infinite quantity of partridges and hares, more quails than I ever saw in my whole life before; they asked me three livres for half a dozen; but they would not have been so acceptable to me as a small dish of flat fish I eat for my supper at Boulogne.

You pay for two post horses two livres ten sols per post, i. e. six miles; and if you give ten sols each post to the driver (which is double his demand for a single post) it is just half a crown English per post;

post; but then this is for one person: If two go in the same chaise, you must then have three horses, and every horse in whatever shape you use him, is twenty-five sols per post. Nothing can be more expeditious nor better conducted than the posts in France; they seldom go more than a post and half, and generally but one post; when they arrive in or near the village or town you change horses at, your postillion smacks his whip, to give notice, and the fresh horses are out in a crack; nor do those who put them too, ever ask you for any money; indeed the postillion that drives a stranger will not be content, give him what you will, and therefore it is the best to give him what you please, and not pay him till you are just setting off with your fresh horses. I shall say nothing of Boulogne, because I have seen nothing of it, and besides you have Mr. Smollet's account to refer to. But I will not conclude without assuring you, once again, that Mr. Smollet has done this nation the highest injustice, in drawing so

vile a portrait of its inhabitants. I do not mean to impeach his veracity, but to shew his real incapacity to give an account of people with whom he never eat or conversed: For I will maintain it, that if an easy and graceful address; a particular, not impertinent attention to strangers in general; and a thorough disposition to make their company feel easy and be happy, is the characteristic of good breeding, the French people of REAL fashion are certainly well bred. It is impossible to dine or sup with a Frenchman of Fashion, though he may have many other strangers, and not believe that his whole attention is employed to see that you have what you like, and are properly served; and yet he does it with so much address, that every other stranger thinks the same. I have dined at some English Tables of fashion, where had I not been properly asked, I should have thought I had offended in coming, from a total disregard. If the latter is owing to more sincerity, the former is most agreeable. I was once
asked

asked to dine by a man of very high rank in England; he was particularly civil to me during the whole time, and when I came away, even attended me to the door; but during dinner, lest I should lay too much stress upon the very great honour he did me, he took occasion to make me sensible that too much stress was not to be laid on such an invitation, and so much attention, and addressing himself to a person at the table, "Oh I
" would be as civil upon such and such an
" occasion, aye, as civil as to any person
" whom I *asked to dine with me.*" I understood where the expression was levelled, paid ten shillings to his servants for my dinner, and retired; since which he would never even know me. But a French nobleman is incapable of such high marks of good breeding.

I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

L E T T E R XXII.

Boulogne, Oct. 10th, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Told you in my last I would say nothing of Boulogne, but as it blows cats and dogs, as the sailors say, I have nothing to do but write till it abates ; as I wait for moderate weather, and the motion of an English family, who have hired a vessel to carry them to Dover ; in which, however, I have made interest with half a guinea to the captain to be permitted as a common passenger. This family consists of a citizen of London, his wife, little master and miss, and madam's waiting maid : They came over about a week ago to make the tour of France, and have accordingly been at Dunkirk, St. Omer's and Calais : This lady in her person greatly resembles the figure in Hogarth's print of the husband, wife and family, returning from the fair, with their children ; only she is something shorter, but then she

is

is much rounder, and miss has a wonderful fine stay and coat. If they should admit me to an audience during the passage, I shall endeavour to give you some account of their journey from their own mouths; but hitherto (though we are in the same house) they carry it rather with a high hand: They travel in a berlin and four, have hired the vessel at five guineas to themselves, yet permit me to swim over with them. Master and miss have been so rude in riding on the shafts of my cabriolet, that I would have made my complaint to their mama in person, had I not found her too deeply engaged in scraping some foals in the kitchen, which I presume are to compose part of the first course at her table for dinner. Now should any of the little thin meagre bourgeois ladies of the upper town here, happen to see this elegant sample of our citizens, though they would behave with strict good breeding and not set up a direct horse laugh in their faces, yet they would

130 L E T T E R XXII.

certainly think that madam wants a little paring down, or, as we call it, has rather too much stuff about her for an upholsterer's wife.

I am, Sir, &c,

L E T.

L E T T E R XXIII.

Hotel D'Angleterre, Calais, Oct. 21st, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE wind at Boulogne proved so obstinate, and my landlord at the Golden Lyon brought me such stinking foals for my dinner, that I left it immediately, to see which way the wind lay at this town; and besides, I knew I should have the comfort of a good room, a good bed, and a good supper at the Hotel D'Angleterre; and as I told Mons. Dessim my disappointment at Boulogne, and that I had been four months without any salt water fish, except mackarel, he sent me up, for my supper, a small turbot, not unworthy of the table of poor Quin, and I wish he had been here to have partook of it.

The packet not failing to-day, has given me an opportunity of informing myself more particularly in the several matters you desired of me.

As

As the post-houses furnish you only with horses and drivers, it will be necessary to hire a chaise upon your arrival here, and M. Dessin will provide one for you to Paris for three louis-d'ors; but as you intend making a long tour, you will do well to purchase one; and there will be no difficulty in meeting with a tolerably good chaise for twenty guineas. The post-master general has the direction of all the post horses in France; the posts are farm'd under him for the use of the king; and ordonnances are publish'd from time to time, which regulate the number of horses to be taken, and the prices to be paid for them.

The French post chaises have only two wheels; and when one person is in them, must have two horses; and if two people, they must have three.

When the carriage has four wheels, [there must be four horses and two drivers; but in case there should be three persons in it, you are charged at the rate of five horses; and if four persons, you must have

have fix. If a person extra, is in the carriage, or a servant behind, you are obliged to pay at the rate of one horse (25 sols) for every such person. It will sometimes happen, when several chaises have gone the same road before you, that the post-houses cannot supply you with all the horses you require, and rather than wait for the return of wearied horses, you go on to the next stage without your full number; yet in that case you are obliged to pay for the whole number prescribed in the ordonnance. The price of each horse is 25 sols for each post, and 5 sols is the pay fixed by the ordonnance for each driver, though, as I before observed, no person gives them less than ten, unless they misbehave. There are a few *Postes Royales*, viz. at Paris, Versailles and Lyons, and at all other places wherever the King is, and during the time the court is held there, at these posts you always pay double, both at entering and going out.

From Calais to Paris is thirty-two posts, and the last is a royal one, which makes it

at

134 LETTER XXIII.

at the rate of thirty-three; but to make it more familiar, I give you an example of the expences of going post from Calais to Paris.

For one person, 2 horses			
(50 sols) and driver (10			
sols) 33 posts, at 3 livres	<i>liv.</i>		
per post — — —		99	
Hire of a chaise, 3 louis-			
d'ors, or — — —		72	
			<i>l. s. d.</i>
		171 livres, or 7 9 7½	

For two persons 3 horses			
(75 sols) and driver (10			
sols) at 4 livres 10 sols	<i>liv. sols.</i>		
per post — — —		140 5	
Hire of a chaise — — —		72	
			<i>l. s. d.</i>
		212 5 or 9 5 8½ sterl.	

But in case you should bring over an English chaise, it having four wheels, the expences would increase, viz.

For two persons (if only one in a carriage with four wheels, it is the same) 4 horses (5 livres) 2 drivers (1 livre) at 6 livres per post	198 livres	<i>l. s. d.</i>
or — — — — —		7 13 1½
Rating the Use of the chaise at — — —		3 3
		10 16 1½

The

The difference occasioned by four wheels, which appears but trifling in this instance, will, however, in going from Calais to Marseilles, arise to a considerable sum, as will readily appear, when you consider that the distance is about one hundred and forty posts, including the royal posts; and therefore two persons in the chaise must have one hundred and forty additional horses, and as many drivers; but if you should be alone, you will have the same number of drivers, and double that number of horses extraordinary to pay for.

As to your servant, you will find him of greater service on horseback, than he can be in the carriage, and if you have a two wheel chaise, the expence is the same; but you must provide him with a saddle and strong boots, and when he is mounted, the horse, without guiding, will carry him to the next post; and before the chaise arrives, the fresh horses will be ready and waiting in the highway, by which you will not be delayed more than three minutes, and can go two or three posts

posts in a day farther; you will also be relieved from the importunity of common beggars, which is not the least inconvenience in this country, where they are in greater numbers, and more troublesome, than in England.

I mentioned to you in a former letter, that by having your baggage *plombé* at Calais, you would avoid any trouble at your entering Paris; in this matter I misinformed you; for I find it will be re-examined there, but will prevent your being delayed to be inspected at every other place.

I am, Sir, &c.

P. S. An affair has lately happened to me, by which I am furnished with a piece of information that I shall profit by, and so may every stranger who wants money in Paris; which is, to direct your broker to procure on the Royal Exchange of London, from time to time, good bills upon merchants at Paris, observing the
exchange

exchange between those places is $31\frac{1}{2}$ for par; so that by procuring such bills, you will seldom lose, and often gain; whereas by drawing your useless money out of a banker's hands in London through the hands of a Paris banker, you lose your interest money in England, and also pay near four per cent. to the Paris banker for supplying you with cash. This I shall make appear, first informing you, that a livre is value ten-pence halfpenny English, by stating the account as sent from my banker for 200*l.* sterling, drawn through his hands upon Mr. Hoare.

£.

By a bill of 70 on Mr. Hoare	1554
By a bill of 30 on Ditto - -	666
By a bill of 50 on Ditto - -	1100
By a bill of 50 on Ditto - -	1100

200

4420*livres*

whereas had I received my money at par, it would have amounted to more than 4571 *livres*.

You

You will observe that a guinea and a louis-d'or is of the same value, viz. 24 livres; but there being no piece of coin of a livre, you receive change in crowns, of which there are two sorts, the *gras écu* and the *petit écu*; the one is of six, the other of three livres value; but in all accounts where crowns are mentioned, they are understood to be the *petit écu*, or small crown. There are also silver pieces of 24, 12, and 6 sols each, which are nearly equal to our shillings, sixpences, and three-penny pieces; under them is a base metal composed of copper, and a little silver mixed, value 2 *sols*, and others 6 *liards*; and there are also copper pieces of *sols*, *liards* and *deniers*, all of which are very bad coin, and resemble each other; how you are to distinguish them is not easily explained on paper, but the first friend you meet in France can make them familiar to you. And now, Dear Sir, having obeyed your commands, if you pass through your own country or mine, more pleasantly or more cheaply for the few hints I have furnished

you

you with, it will add to the pleasure I propose when we meet.

I have this minute received a letter from a friend in England, and I can no way better conclude than with his postscript, which is come very opportunely to explain in a few words so fully, what I have been greatly perplexed to do only in part.

“ I ask whether it may not be worth
 “ your while to reflect that the par of ex-
 “ change between London and Paris is
 “ estimated $31\frac{1}{2}$ pence *pour écu de trois*
 “ *livres*, the exchange has lately been
 “ $31\frac{7}{8}$ one day's date, $\frac{1}{8}$ for longest time.
 “ Quere, Whether your friend here had
 “ not better remit you, than you draw?
 “ This will be greatly worth your while
 “ to consider well.”

I am, Sir, &c.

F I N I S.



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Sen. de Irâ, lib. 2. c. 13.

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with the care of his education, from the time of his

A

nativity,

B O O K S.

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